



HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

HEALTH COVERAGE FOR WORKING FLORIDIANS

House Democratic Caucus members support an expansion of health care coverage to:

Save lives and improve health outcomes

- Florida can expand health care access to more than **1.2 million Floridians** by using available federal resources.
- Florida is eligible to receive up to **\$55 billion in federal money** over the first 10 years of full implementation of the nation's health care law. For the first three years, the federal government provides the full cost of expanded coverage. After that, the federal share gradually reduces **to 90 percent in 2020 and beyond**.
- Prevention and wellness care under Medicaid expansion is **far more cost effective** than emergency room treatments.
- An estimated **5,680 deaths a year would be prevented** under an expansion of coverage envisioned by the Affordable Care Act, according to reports based on New England Journal of Medicine findings.

Create jobs and grow our economy

- **At least 54,000 quality new jobs** throughout Florida would be created under a Medicaid expansion plan that fully relies on available federal resources, according to a University of Florida study.
- Using federal resources to expand health access to working families would **bring Florida's tax dollars to work in our state**.

Democratic Caucus members believe Florida's health plan should:

- Guarantee health coverage for all Floridians under age 65 who have **incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level**. For an individual, that's an income of up to \$15,400; and for a family of three, it's earnings of \$26,300 a year.
- Provide coverage to **childless adults** who meet the income criteria.
- Extend meaningful, quality coverage by **accepting all available federal funds**.
- Assure access to the **same types and levels of services** as required by federal law.
- **Continue cost-sharing limitations** that already apply to the state's Medicaid program.
- Take all necessary precautions to **avoid a two-tiered system of health care** and instead develop a plan that focuses foremost on the needs of patients.

For additional information, see Mark Hollis, House Democratic Office, 850-488-9622. Prepared 4/18/13.